

MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter
September 2009

Club Officers

- *Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.*
1008 CR 900 W.
Farmland, IN 47340
765-468-8091
- *Jean Harbron, V.P.*
245 E. Oak St.
Anderson, IN 46012
765-644-4333
- *Anne Szopa, Treas.*
11199 U.S. Highway 35
Economy, IN 47339
765-886-6198
- *Joe Coulson, Sec./Editor*
10515 Collingswood Ln.
Fishers, IN 46037
317-915-0665
- *Richard Cole, Librarian*
2904 W. Moore Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304
765-288-8717
- *Norman Barnett, Pres. Emeritus*
P.O. Box 38
Flat Rock, IN 47234
812-587-5560

Membership

The Midwest Glass Chatter is a monthly publication and is a forum through which collectors can share information.

Membership cost is \$15.00 per year, per family, due each December 31. All jar/bottle related collectors are welcome. Send to MAFJBC, Attn: Joe Coulson, 10515 Collingswood Ln, Fishers, IN 46037

Meeting Minutes, September 6th, 2009

The September club meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 10 members.

Dave gave the Treasurer's report on behalf of Anne Szopa. Anne was not feeling well and could not attend our meeting. We missed her. We had some minor expenses related to the picnic and the purchase of some postage stamps.

Dave said that he has received some telephone calls that were generated by visitors to our club website.

Dick Cole, our club Librarian, told us that we now have a complete set of the Fruit Jar Annual in our lending Library (previously, we only had the 1996 and 2009 issues). This came about through the generous donation of Norm and Junne Barnett, who have been cleaning out closets at home. Dick found an Index to the Fruit Jar Newsletter in his own stuff and is donating that to the Library.

Joe Coulson relayed the sad news that club member Ron Johnson has passed away. Tammy Johnson is doing pretty well considering, but

still has sad moments. Joe also reported that Dick Cole was featured in an article in the most recent issue of "Columns" (the quarterly publication that Minnetrista sends to its members).

See you all at the next meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

October 4—Minnetrista Cantina at 1:30pm. Show and Tell: bring product jars.

November 1—Minnetrista Cantina at 1:30pm. Program: Joe Coulson—Ball Buffalo Jars.

Show and Tell: Bring one or two Ball jars.

December 6—Christmas Party, Minnetrista Cantina at 1:30pm. Food and Drinks: the club will provide ham and turkey, paper products and plastic utensils. Members bring a small side dish and a small dessert. Coffee and water will be provided; a soft drink machine (\$1.25) is available. Activities: Short business meeting to plan for the Muncie Show on January 10; Dirty Santa—bring a wrapped jar, bottle or go-with (\$10) and enjoy the fun.

January 10—Our Winter Show and Sale!



Our newsletter won FIRST place in the recent FOHBC contest!!

Program on Jar Closures by Dave Rittenhouse

This month our meeting featured a program on Fruit Jar Closures, presented by Dave Rittenhouse.

A lot of people think that a closure is odd if it is not a Mason, Lightning or Wax Seal. Some of the early closures were pretty inventive. Dave brought many examples

of odd closure jars for everyone to see.

Dave also brought examples of reproduction closures that he passed around for us to look at closeup. Dave makes and sells reproduction closures. There were not many odd closures made after 1900.



All Right closeup

All Right (reverse: Patd Jan 28th 1868. Patentees: T.G. Otterson, S.B. Rowley, W.L. Imlay. Circa 1870, Lockport Glass Works, Lockport, NY.



Clarke closeup

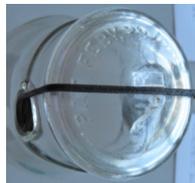
Clark Fruit Jar Co. Cleveland, O. Patentees: W.H. Clarke, T.W. Larsen, Mrs. M.A. Tack. Circa 1886-88, Clarke Fruit Jar Co., Cleveland, OH.



Hansee closeup



Hansee's (PH) Palace Home Jar. Patentee: R. Hansee. Circa 1900-01, Poughkeepsie Glass Works, Poughkeepsie, NY.



Howe closeup

The Howe Jar Scranton Pa. Patentees: T.B. Howe, G.A. Clearwater, M.A. Goodwin. Circa 1888-90, Scranton Glass Co., Scranton, PA.



Lafayette closeup

Lafayette. Patentees: W.W. Gup-till, J. Comly, G.W. Root. Circa 1884-98, Hartford Fruit Jar Co., Hartford, CT.



Magic closeup



The Magic (star) Fruit Jar. Patentees: H. Buchholz, H. Miller. Circa 1885-88, New Brighton Glass Co., New Brighton, PA?

Program on Jar Closures, cont'd



Millville closeup

Millville Atmospheric Fruit Jar. Patentee: J.M. Whitall. Circa 1861-80's, Whitall Tatum & Co., New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Millville, NJ.



Peerless closeup

Peerless. Patentees: I. Stratton, J. Koeberle. Circa 1863-74, Beck-Phillips Co., Pittsburgh, PA, Lorenz-Wightman, Pittsburgh, PA.



Pet closeup

Pet. Patentee: T.G. Otterson. Circa 1869-86, Beck-Phillips, Pittsburgh, PA, Lorenz-Wightman, Pittsburgh, PA.



Valve closeup

The Valve Jar Co. Philadelphia Pat March 10th 1868. Patentee: W.L. Imlay. Circa 1870, F&J Bodine, Bridgeton, NJ.



Van Vliet closeup

The Van Vliet Jar of 1881. Patentee: W.R. Van Vliet. Circa 1880, E. Stroudsburg Glass Co., East Stroudsburg, PA.



Wilcox closeup

Patd March 26th 1867 B.B. Wilcox. Patentee: B.B. Wilcox. Circa 1867, Ellenville Glass Works, Wawarsing, NY.

Show and Tell

Club members were asked to bring one or two jars with interesting closures for Show and Tell.

Jeff Denney displayed a 22 oz. Ball Sure Seal. Original lids for this jar are very tough

to find. The size and characteristics are slightly different than typical Lightning-style glass lids. Jeff also displayed a clear QT Ball Ideal with vertical lugs (very different from the normal dimples which

hold the wire bail on the jar).

Larry Stoner shared an 18 oz. Eureka; a clear PT Mason's Patent 1858; and an aqua PT Schram.

Mike Mosier brought an

aqua HG RB #177 The Automatic Sealer; an aqua QT RB #459 The Best (base: initials); and his latest find, an aqua midget PT #1836 Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 58 (Ball-made; Buffalo screw cap).

Show and Tell, cont'd

Dick Cole displayed a pottery QT+ jar Patent July 13, 1909 By Jos. M. (or N?) Schramm. Dick also displayed an unusual "Ball Jar". It was a small green plastic prescription bottle (base: Ball logo) with a white plastic cap. These bottles were made in the late 1950's by Ball's Pharmaceutical Division.



Joe Coulson shared an apple green HG The Puritan (reverse: LSCo monogram). Joe also shared a tin can Hacker's Patent.

Jean Harbron brought a clear HG #2551-2 (base: Sanford) library paste jar. This jar had an unusual lid and band. (made circa 1900).



Jean also brought a clear PT #2637-2 T.M. Sinclair Pork Packer, which had a "Schies Closure". This type of closure was invented by John Schies of Anderson, Indiana. Jean did research on this topic in the past for Dick Roller. Jean told us that she was contacted by the Great Granddaughter of John Schies. The woman went to the Anderson

Public Library to find information about her famous ancestor. She was referred to Jean by the Librarian who had remembered Jean from the time she spent at the Library doing research on the topic. Jean shared Dick Roller's patent book information with her.

Junne Barnett brought a beautiful teal blue PT Pat Glass Pail Boston Mass.



Norm Barnett displayed an aqua HG Dalbey. It is the only intact half gallon example known. The jar had been found in Shelby County, Indi-

ana (not far from where the Barnett's live). The mouth on the HG is larger than the QT. Norm said there are seven pieces to this most unusual fruit jar closure. A few of the pieces were missing when the jar was found. Dan Corker knew a man in Baltimore, Maryland that made cast iron closures. Dave Rittenhouse made the top circular tin plate as well as the screws. R.M. Dalbey was a minister. Norm wonders how many housewives "lost their religion" trying to use this complicated jar.

Dave Rittenhouse shared two aqua QT Root Mason jars that had very different styles of O's in Root. One had the normal round O's, and the other had elongated O's.



Pat Glass Pail, Boston



Jos. Schramm pottery



Sanford Mfg. Co.



Notice the very different O's in ROOT

Show and Tell Pictures



“Schies” closure; Patd Jany 11th 1898



Ball Sure Seal (tall) Lightning-style lid



Ball Ideal with “Vertical lug”



THE BEST jar; unusual closure



The Automatic Sealer jar; unusual closure



The Puritan; unusual closure



Hacker’s Patent tin can; unusual closure



BBGMCo Mason screw cap—top view



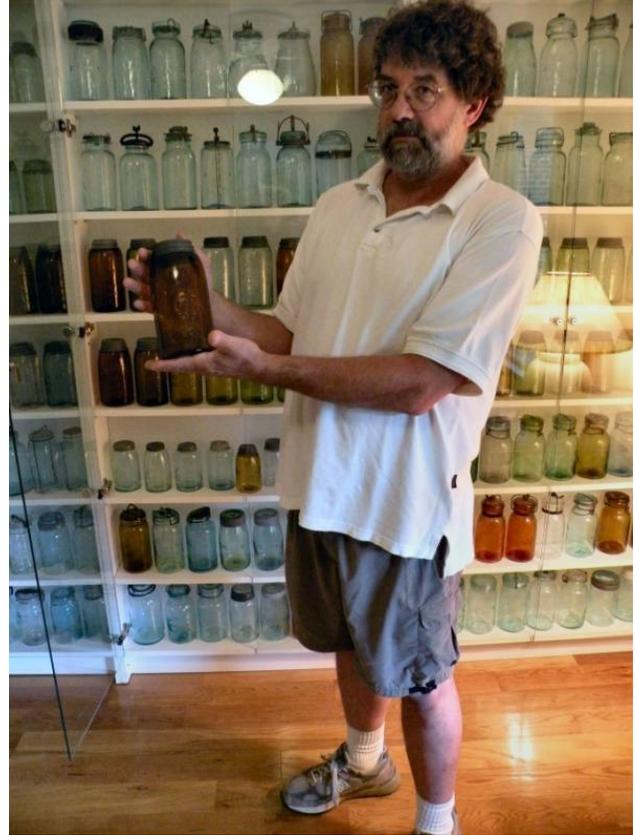
BBGMCo Mason screw cap—inside view

LEGENDS OF THE JAR!

[Editor's Note: This article is a result of long time collector and author Bruce W. Schank reaching out to long time collector Bo Trimble]

I met Bo quite by accident only a few years ago at the Shupp's Grove Adamstown, PA Show. He seemed like a nice enough guy who was definitely interested in fruit jars yet I was never totally sure what he really specialized in. What I found out during my visit is that Bo is a classic example of an "under the radar" collector. He is just a quiet, nonchalant and ego-less guy that most people don't even know what he's all about let alone know what's in his small but dynamite fruit jar collection.

It was while attending the 2009 Baltimore Show in March that I finally managed to talk with Bo for any real length of time. We just happened to share a hotel room the night before the show and both of us stayed up very late talking jars on the balcony of the 2nd floor. It was then that I realized there was



more to Bo than what met my eye. It was also at that time that I became convinced he was a very good candidate for one of my articles.

Bo was born in Shreveport, LA in 1952 and according to him he grew up as a military brat. Bo's father was stationed in places such as Louisiana, Michigan, California, Puerto Rico and North Carolina before moving to Virginia. Bo attended graduate school at Charlottesville in 1982 and has remained in the area since then. Bo is a contractor and has done a major part of the renovation work himself on his soon to be new home.



Bo's interest in fruit jars came about in the late 80's when he was renting a house and happened to have his own garden in the back yard. When it came time for the harvest his next door neighbor (a Ms. McCormick who was 103 at the time) just happened to leave for him a bag of mayonnaise and old canning jars to put up the beans and tomatoes. In that bag he found a couple of blue Ball Perfect Mason jars but thought to himself they were too pretty to can in so he put them to the side. A couple of weeks later he went to a



Flea Market and found a guy there who had more blue colored jars mixed in with other jars. There were approx., 40 different jars in three boxes and Bo bought them all for \$25.00 and only later noticed there were about 20 different embossing styles



of 1858's and assorted Ball jars. It was at that time Bo realized he had an instant collection of fruit jars.

From there Bo went to an antique store where a guy sold bottles and jars and it was then that he found out there were so many different weird jars with closures and strange lids. That same dealer told him about the Red Book and so he subsequently ordered one. After getting the Red Book, he found out to his amazement there were 3,000 or whatever different kinds of fruit jars. Not knowing anything of course he went through the Red Book thinking how this jar, that jar or this other jar would be cool to have so he actually started looking for them.

When Bo was first starting out, \$10 or \$20 was a lot for him to spend on a jar. He happened to go into a store in the valley one time where he found a reproduction amber midget and mentioned to the dealer how it was too bad it wasn't real. So the dealer asked him if he would be interested in real ones and of course he said sure not knowing what they would cost. So they went to a room above the store where the dealer had eight real amber midgets four of



which were damaged. He ended up talking the dealer into selling him two of the amber midgets even though he really couldn't afford them. Fortunately he ended up selling one of the amber midgets to John Hathaway at a York bottle show which happened to be the very first show he ever went to as well.

Back in the early 90's Bo met Dan Corker and bought a couple of midgets from him and has remained friends since then and Dan has been a great source of good jars for him through the years. Soon after Bo had managed to get his jars displayed Dan came over to Bo's home one day to take a look and spied a Franklin fruit jar midget he had in the collection. Well, Bo had an extremely nice original lid on the jar that Dan wanted really bad. Bo didn't really want to sell it but Dan was persistent over time and finally about a year ago he gave in to a trade. They exchanged Franklin lids, Bo



gave Dan cash and Dan gave Bo an original closure for his H & S jar. And best of all, both were happy with the trade arrangements.

Bo also remembered the year not so long ago when the Muncie Show was iced out and cancelled but he went there anyway. Before the cancellation of the actual show he was room hopping as usual and he was in Greg Spurgeon's room. Not really paying too much attention he noticed an amber quart 1858 on the table. So he picked it up and took the lid off and noticed it had an immerser lid on the

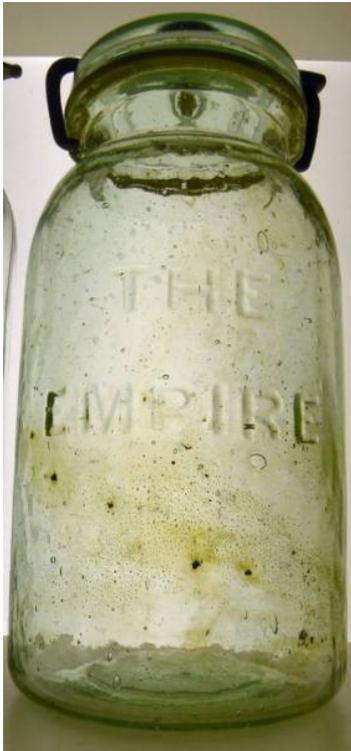
jar. Well he turned the jar around and quickly realized the jar was a Tudor Rose in amber. Well that jar stayed in his hands and he never put it back down after that point. So although the show was cancelled he was still thrilled to pick up a super jar during room hopping making the treacherous trip more than worthwhile.

Bo mentioned to me that when he goes to shows he doesn't necessarily go to them with any expectations of buying or selling. He's more interested in socializing with all of the people he has met and known for years and years now and considers that to be more important. Buying and selling is an added bonus as far as Bo's concerned.

Bo also remembers going into another antique store once and seeing a hg straight sided Potter & Bodine's Air Tight Fruit Jar

Philada for \$1,200 but which was too much money for him. Every time he went the jar was still there unsold so after approx., four or five years Bo said to the dealer one day, "look that jar been sitting on the shelf without selling for a long time, so what's the best you can do on it?" So the guy hemmed and hawed but finally said \$400 so he immediately asked if he'd take \$300 and the guy said how about \$350? So Bo got a really nice jar fairly cheap and the guy told him since he only had \$275 into the jar he was happy too.

Bo's thoughts to newer collectors are as follows: He thinks newer collectors should buy



what they like but try not to go straight to the high end jars right away. Worry more about collecting the best jar (s) you can at the level of financial resources you have. Bo says; "having started out buying \$8 and \$10 jars and now having gone up to probably top notch level examples, the

best thing about the \$8 and \$10 jars when you're starting out is you can always find something. The spirit of adventure and the hunt was always exciting and it most often tended to make you want more and better jars anyway. And once you've progressed if the choice was between one good jar or say ten lesser jars then getting the one good jar is



the best option. Having the better jar in the collection will make the collection better overall in the long run."

One caveat to my visit with Bo is a pretty interesting side story of its own. While there talking



to him and looking over his jars I noticed he actually had some Ball jars. I immediately



spied an absolutely beautifully colored 3L Ball Mason quart sitting on one of his shelves. I just had to look at that jar up close and personal in light of the fact I am currently into that genre of Ball jar and obviously seriously into great colored examples too. Well,

I was a bit weak kneed over the jar and began going off on a tangent talking to him about how great it was and out of the blue Bo says to me, "Bruce, remember that green CFJ we were looking at yesterday in Shupp's?" I said yes, of course I remember it. "Well he says I'll trade you this Ball jar for that CFJ." At first I denied to myself that what I heard him say was what I had actually heard. I was in shock and my mind was scrambling to get back to the surface for air. As soon as I regained my composure I said it's a deal and we shook hands and I immediately called the owner of the CFJ. Obviously Bo's happy with the trade but truthfully I'm nothing short of elated!



In doing this article I happened to be at another collector's home in order to do yet another future article and that collector graciously drove over to Bo's with me so I could see what kind of a collection he actually had and get his story. The drive was approx., 1½

hours into the middle of central Virginia with just absolutely spectacular scenic vistas and rolling mountains. I was impressed to say the least. Upon our arrival we saw that Bo is in the middle of putting up a brand new home adjacent to and against his older smaller home. From what we could tell by looking it over the new digs are going to be really nice when it's



finally done. Bo happens to own 17 ½ acres and if you enjoy rural and being out there in the country, well he is in the right spot for sure.



I came away from Bo's realizing what an incredible good guy he really is and how when you least expect it fortune can smile upon you via an old time trade. :0) Be prepared for the unexpected is all I can say. Bo has some truly outstanding jars and an over-all great collection. I was honored that he allowed me for even a short time to see his collection and get his story. *Bo, I'm raising a cold one to you!*

In Memorium, Gene Kozuk

[Editor's note: club member Gene Kozuk passed away on September 20th, 2009]

Anyone who collects the Ball retirement and "special occasion" jars should know that Gene had a big hand in their development.

The Quality Assurance department in Muncie, that Gene ended up heading, would get samples for evaluation of every different jar (well, every official jar) made in any Ball plant, so they worked closely with the plants on these unusual jars, as often problems arose in making them. Those of you who collect the retirement jars will recognize the names of others who worked in the same department: Russ Simpson, Bill Wade and Dick Wirth.

Gene was born in Schram City, Illinois, where his mother worked in the old Schram plant that Ball operated. Gene rose to be in charge of the Ball's Mundelein plant, left Ball to work for Metro Glass out of New Jersey, got back with Ball when they bought out Metro. He was one of the very few Metro employees to be retained by Ball.

Gene and I got to be friends while I worked at Ball, and often I would come back to my desk and find a new retirement jar, a present from Gene, sitting on my desk.

Gene was a loyal member of MAFJ&BC when he was able, as he spent his winters in Florida. He would always come to the Summer show, as

he would run into lots of his old co-workers there.

A super-nice man, with a super-nice family.

Rest in Peace, Gene.

Dick Cole

Muncie, Indiana



In Memorium, Ron Johnson

[Editor's note: club member Ron Johnson passed away on August 16th, 2009. Ron and Tammy have been familiar faces at many of our club events over the years]

Ron passed away in the early morning hours Sunday, August 16. I just want everyone to know that his favorite social venue was a bottle show.

It didn't matter to him if we sold or bought anything, he just enjoyed talking jars with whoever would listen & share their own stories.

Tammy Johnson

Orangevale, CA



MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
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A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:

Joe Coulson, Editor

10515 Collingswood Ln.

Fishers, IN 46037-9598

Email: JCoulson@LeaderJar.com

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



A closeup of the famous early jar closure patented by R.M. Dalbey. Norm Barnett showed us this aqua HG jar at the club meeting. Can you imagine trying to seal this jar during the canning process?!

Announcements

- The Findlay Antique Bottle Club's Show is Sunday, October 18th. The show is held at the Old Barn Auction House, 10040 St. Rt. 224 West, Findlay, Ohio. Contact show chairman Fred Curtis (419-424-0486) to reserve sales tables or for more information.
- The inventory of the Lending Library is viewable on the club's website. Get in touch with Dick Cole (contact details on first page) if you would like to borrow an item. Dick is also seeking book donations from our club members. Please consider donating your old bottle and glass books. Dick's contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.
- Are you enjoying Bruce Schank's series of articles on long-time jar collectors? Want to see more stories like this? Bruce is willing to do interviews—get in touch with him by email: balljars@balljars.net. You can visit his website at: <http://www.balljars.net>
- The Ball Jar Collectors Community Center (BJCCC) is located at this site: <http://balljarcollectorscommunitycenter.yuku.com/>

